



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** August 6, 2021

Dear Stakeholder:

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) welcomes your comments on the “Urban Forest Defense Zone Fuels Reduction” project. Recent destructive fires in California and Nevada have demonstrated the need for healthy forests that are resilient to disturbances such as drought, insect infestation, and wildfire. By reducing fuels and tree density, this project would continue to promote healthy forests, reduce wildfire risk, and complement defensible space actions on adjoining non-federal lands. We propose vegetation treatments on approximately 1,800 acres of undeveloped LTBMU managed lands intermixed with developed neighborhoods, plus approximately 2,300 acres within the Wildland Urban Interface Defense Zone around the Lake Tahoe Basin (please see project map).

### Environmental Analysis

Through preliminary analysis, we determined this project satisfies the requirements for a Categorical Exclusion, resulting in a Decision Memo, and have identified the following applicable category:

*PUBLIC LAW 114–322: Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, Section 3603: A forest management activity conducted in the LTBMU for the purpose of reducing forest fuels is categorically excluded from the requirements of NEPA, if the forest management activity: notwithstanding section 423 of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009, does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning; is developed in coordination with impacted parties, specifically including representatives of local governments, such as county supervisors or county commissioners, and in consultation with other interested parties; and, is consistent with the LTBMU land and resource management plan.*

### How to Review Project and Comment

To Review the Proposed Action: Select the “Urban Forest Defense Zone Fuels Reduction” project from the LTBMU Projects [webpage](#) (“Under Analysis” section), then under Project Documents select the “Scoping” tab, then select Proposed Action doc.

To Comment: On the “Urban Forest Defense Zone Fuels Reduction” project webpage, under the right-hand column heading “Get Connected”, select “Comment/Object on Project” and follow instructions there. Written comments for the project will only be accepted through this online method.

For further information regarding this project, please contact Brian Garrett at 530-543-2617. Thank you for your continued interest in our public lands.

Sincerely,

  
GWEN SANCHEZ  
Acting Forest Supervisor

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